

The Scotch Plains

2022

MESSENGER



WELCOME TO THE 2022 SCOTCH PLAINS MESSENGER!

For newcomers to our annual Messenger, this mailer includes plenty of information about municipal services in Scotch Plains. Any other questions can likely be answered on the town website, www.scotchplainsnj.gov

Our community is located in the western portion of Union County, bordered by Plainfield, Fanwood and Somerset County to the west, Berkeley Heights and Mountainside to the north, Westfield to the east, and Clark to the southeast. Directly south of Scotch Plains is Middlesex County.

We invite you to explore the many recreational amenities in Scotch Plains, including part of the Watchung Reservation in the north. There is also the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, the first African-American country club in the nation, Ashbrook Golf Course, as well as many parks and athletic fields. Scotch Plains offers programs, services and events throughout the year, regularly updated on the calendar on the municipal website.



SERVICES AND INFORMATION FOR 2022

SCOTCH PLAINS LEADERSHIP

Mayor Josh Losardo
(908) 322-6700, ext. 316
jlosardo@scotchplainsnj.com
Current term expires 2024



It is my pleasure to present you with a redesigned *Scotch Plains Messenger* for 2022, featuring all the information you need regarding the services the Township provides.

It is our hope that you will find information easily and refer to this Messenger whenever needed. Please note this information is also available on the recently-redesigned municipal website, www.scotchplainsnj.gov

As strong and ongoing communication is a critical part of municipal government, we also provide the latest information through our Friday *E-Messenger*, a weekly email providing current information on what's happening in town government and what events are planned for the near future.

You can also learn the latest news about our community by connecting with us on social media. Again, it's all accessible from the municipal website.

My very best to you and your family in 2022 and beyond.

Towship Manager Al Mirabella
(908) 322-6700, ext. 313
amirabella@scotchplainsnj.com



Scotch Plains operates under a council-manager form of government which is considered the fastest growing type of government in the United States. This council-manager form of government allows the council to focus on policy.

It is my job to carry out the direction of the governing body, as I am accountable for the day-to-day administration of all municipal affairs.

As I enter my 8th year in Scotch Plains, serving both Democratic and Republican governing bodies, I continue to be pleased and honored to serve the citizens of Scotch Plains and I'm dedicated to demonstrating the highest ideals of honesty, integrity, and excellence that the Township Council expects.

If you ever have any questions or comments, please reach me at amirabella@scotchplainsnj.com

MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCIL



Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Stamler
(908) 322-6700, ext. 313
estamler@scotchplainsnj.com
Current term expires 2022



Councilmember Roshan (Roc) White
(908) 322-6700, ext. 313
rwhite@scotchplainsnj.com
Current term expires 2022



Councilmember Ellen Zimmerman
(908) 322-6700, ext. 313
ezimmerman@scotchplainsnj.com
Current term expires 2024



Councilmember Matt Adams
(908) 322-6700, ext. 313
mattadams@scotchplainsnj.com
Current term expires 2022

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@ScotchPlainsTwp



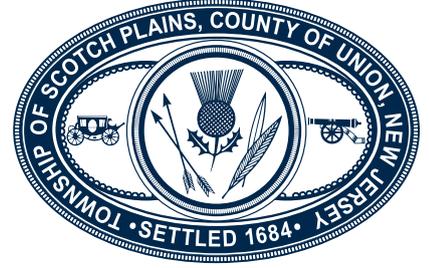
@ScotchPlainsTwp



@ScotchPlains

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE - 2022

January 4, 2022	6 PM	July 19, 2022	7 PM
January 25, 2022	7 PM	August 9, 2022	6 PM
February 15, 2022	6 PM	September 13, 2022	7 PM
March 15, 2022	7 PM	October 18, 2022	6 PM
April 12, 2022	6 PM	November 14, 2022	7 PM
May 17, 2022	7 PM	December 13, 2022	6 PM
June 21, 2022	6 PM		



MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

Administration

Al Mirabella
Township Manager
(908) 322-6700 ext. 313
amirabella@scotchplainsnj.com

Margaret Heisey
Deputy Township Manager
(908) 322-6700 ext. 314
mheisey@scotchplainsnj.com

Tom Strowe
Director of Redevelopment/Municipal
Housing Liaison
(908) 322-6700 ext. 317
tstrowe@scotchplainsnj.com

Clerk

Bonnie Lacina
Township Clerk
(908) 322-6700 ext. 211
blacina@scotchplainsnj.com

Finance

Teddy Georgiou
Chief Financial Officer
(908) 322-6700 ext. 200
tgeorgiou@scotchplainsnj.com

Inspections Department

Robert LaCosta
Building, Engineering & Health
(908) 322-6700 ext. 306, 308, 309, 310
blacosta@scotchplainsnj.com

Library

The Scotch Plains Public Library
1927 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ
(908) 322-5007
www.scotlib.org

Michelle Willis, Library Director
(908) 322-5007 ext. 202
mwillis@scotlib.org

Municipal Court

Court Administrator Office
(908) 322-6700 ext. 215
cdapuzzo@scotchplainsnj.com
corrine.dapuzzo@njcourts.gov

Office of Emergency Management

430 Park Ave
www.scotchplainsnj.gov/OEM
Dennis VanNatta, OEM Director
(908) 322-6700 ext. 185
dvannatta@scotchplainsnj.com

Public Safety

Police Scotch Plains Police Department
430 Park Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
(908) 322-7100
www.scotchplainspolice.org

Ted Conley, Police Chief
(908) 322-6700 ext. 102
t.conley@scotchplainspd.org

Public Works Department

Frank DiNizo, Director
(908) 322-6700 ext. 243 or 244
fdinizo@scotchplainsnj.com

Recreation Department

DJ Salvante, Director Parks &
Recreation
(908) 322-6700 ext. 223
djsalvante@scotchplainsnj.com

Rescue Squad

1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
Daniel Sullivan, Rescue Squad Chief
(908) 322-2103
www.scotchplainsrescuesquad.com

Scotch Plains Fire Department

Station #161 (430 Senger Place)
Station #162 (1920 Raritan Road)
www.scotchplainsnj.gov

John Lestarchick, Fire Chief
(908) 322-6700 ext. 500
jlestarchick@scotchplainsnj.com

Tax Assessor

Mike Ross, Tax Assessor
(908) 322-6700 ext. 206
mross@scotchplainsnj.com

Tax Collector

Colleen Huehn, Tax Collector
(908) 322-6700 ext. 210
chuehn@scotchplainsnj.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS (A SAMPLING OF 2022 HAPPENINGS)

April 9 – Easter Egg Hunt

April 23 – Earth Day Community CleanUp

May 30 – Memorial Day Parade

June 9 – Downtown Race to Summer

July 2 – Fireworks

Sept. 30 – Family Movie Night

Oct. 1 – Rose Checchio Walk

Oct. 2 – Scotch Plains Day

Oct. 15 – Harvest Festival at Frazee Park

Oct. 29 – Trunk or Treat

Dec. 4 – Holiday Celebration

Dec. 18 – Menorah Lighting

Note: All scheduled events are subject to change. Check www.scotchplainsnj.gov for the latest.

THE BEST WAY TO RECYCLE IN SCOTCH PLAINS

Recycle Track Systems provides recycling services for the Township. In the event of a missed collection or for any other recycling questions, please contact RTS directly by visiting www.rts.com, calling 1-833-RTS-INFO (787-4636) or by emailing scotchplains@rts.com for any service inquiries.

Pickup is every Monday for Southside and every Tuesday for Northside. The only exceptions are Memorial Day (May 30), Fourth of July (July 4), and Labor Day (September 5) where Southside pickup will take place on Wednesdays – June 1, July 6 and September 7.

HAVE ITEMS READY FOR PICKUP AT THE CURB BY 6:00 AM ON THE DESIGNATED RECYCLE DAY.

Please Note: Recycling has been mandatory in the state of NJ since 1987, we appreciate the cooperation of all residents and businesses in doing their part to keep Scotch Plains green!

To stay informed, download the free Recycle Coach app. For more information please contact the Union County Bureau of Environmental Services Hotline at 908-654-9889 or visit www.ucnj.org/recycling

Electronics & Styrofoam Recycling

Scotch Plains residents (ID required) can drop off e-waste and Styrofoam at the Scotch Plains DPW, 2445 Plainfield Ave., on Thursdays between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Only these electronics will be accepted: Computers, Fax Machines, Monitors, Printers, Televisions

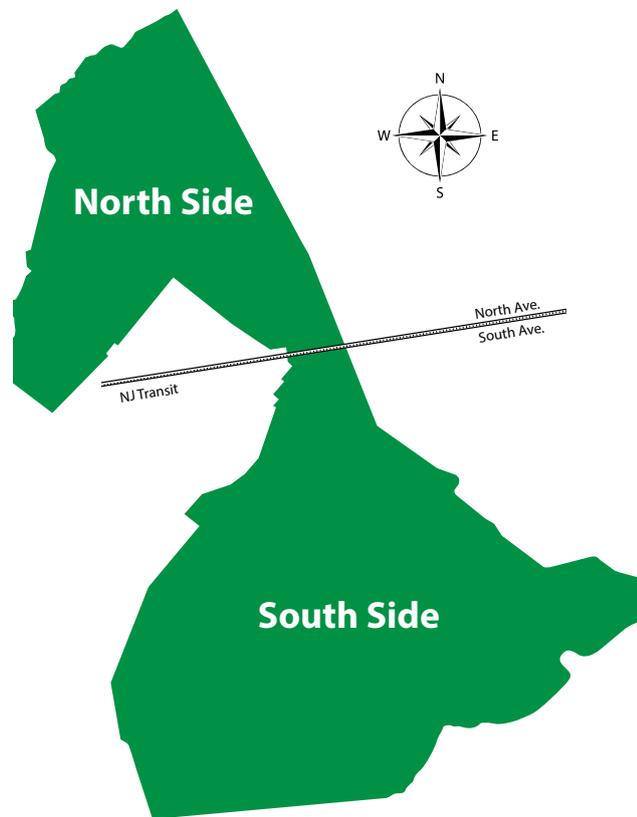
Styrofoam – Only white clean foam and block form foam, such as used for furniture and appliance packaging, is accepted. **NO** food service items, “packing peanuts,” egg cartons, and any dark colored, wet or dirty foam.

Scrap Metal Recycling Program

Westfield Conservation Center - 1300 Lamberts Mill Rd., Westfield

Every Thursday and Friday (excluding holidays) 9 am – 2:30 pm

Every Saturday and Sunday (excluding holidays) 9 am – 3 pm



Examples of accepted items:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Dishwashers | Sheds (metal) |
| Microwaves | Washers/Dryers |
| Refrigerators | Tire Rims |
| Gutters | Bicycles |
| Stoves | Railings |

For more information about the scrap metal recycling program, please call the Westfield DPW at (908) 789-4100 ext. 600

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY SCOTCH PLAINS

Some Helpful Hints to Protect Our Stormwater:

- Greatly limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Do not pour any hazardous products into a storm drain, often connected to our local, untreated water resources. Instead, please take advantage of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days. Call 908-654-9889 for more information.
- Look into environmentally-friendly alternatives to pesticides, available at local stores. But if you must use pesticides, follow the directions carefully.
- Pet Owners – Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. Never dispose of pet waste in a storm drain.
- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle, Recycle, Recycle...



BAG UP SCOTCH PLAINS

The statewide ban on disposable bags goes into effect on May 4, 2022.

To spread awareness, the Township of Scotch Plains is working with the New Jersey Clean Communities Council to promote its “Bag Up NJ” campaign. It has a simple message: Bring your own reusable bag(s) when you shop.

This campaign educates and reminds consumers about their options for sustainability at the checkout counter. Consumers can bring their own reusable bags when they shop and recycle their plastic bags.

The law prevents litter and encourages the use of reusable bags by phasing out single-use plastic and paper bags. The law bans plastic bags, regardless of thickness, at grocery stores and retail outlets, as well as paper bags at grocery stores measuring more than 2,500 square feet. It also bans polystyrene foam food service products; and makes plastic straws at restaurants available only upon request.

Learn more at
BagUpNJ.com



THE DPW CORNER

Scotch Plains conducts street cleanups every spring and fall, removing leaves, limbs, brush and gumballs.

Pickups for Spring are expected to begin on or about Monday, April 11, 2022.

Pickups for Fall are expected to begin on or about Monday, September 12, 2022.

Scotch Plains Picks Up Christmas Trees

The DPW will begin free Christmas tree pickup on or about January 10, 2023. The trees should be placed at the curb with all ornaments and tinsel removed. No wreaths or garland please. If you wish to dispose of the tree yourself, bring it to the Department of Public Property yard, 2445 Plainfield Ave. before Monday January 23, 2023.

Some important facts:

- Only biodegradable paper bags will be accepted. Do not bag leaves in plastic.
- Please keep as many cars off the road as possible to speed the process.
- Residents should ensure leaf piles are free of branches, rocks, stumps, etc., to prevent equipment damage.
- Weather permitting, sweepers will be operating after the last collection cycle in December.

Need the Latest DPW Information?

Please contact the Scotch Plains Department of Public Property Hotline (908) 233-6707



BE PREPARED IN A DISASTER

All residents should take steps to be prepared at home in the event of a disaster.

That is why Scotch Plains offers "Register Ready – New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disaster." The system allows residents with disabilities or other challenges, as well as their families, friends or caregivers, to provide information to emergency response agencies.

Through the system, local police, fire and rescue squad members can better serve in a disaster or other emergency. Go to <https://www13.state.nj.us/SpecialNeeds/Registration> to register for New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters.

Learn About Our Emergency Notification System

Scotch Plains uses "EverBridge," branded as Union County First Alert, for its emergency notification system. For the latest information, make sure to register at www.ucnj.org/alerts

Residents may also call the State Operator by dialing "211" for assistance with registration.



CLERK'S CORNER

Please contact the Township Clerk's Office for:

Vital Records – Certified copies of birth, death or marriage records if the event took place in Scotch Plains.

Marriage License Applications – One applicant must be a resident of Scotch Plains. Forms and instructions are available on the municipal website under the Township Clerk or under "Forms."

Dog Licenses – All dogs ages six months and over must be licensed. The application and instructions are available on the municipal website under "Forms."

OPRA Requests – These are public record requests as part of New Jersey's statute that governs access to government records in New Jersey. Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests are available on the website under "Forms."

Requests are answered in the order they are received. Responses are provided within seven business days, in which the municipal offices are open.

Need more information?

Please visit www.scotchplainsnj.gov, regularly updated with information from the clerk's office, or call 908-322-6700 ext. 211 or ext. 212.



IMPORTANT FACTS

Public Schools:

Scotch Plains and Fanwood share a high school, two middle schools (5-8), and five elementary schools (K-4)

Union County Vocational-Technical High School

Private Schools:

St. Bartholomew Academy (Pre-K- 8)
Union Catholic Regional High School (9-12)
Newmark K-8 & Newmark High School
(children and young adults grades K-12 with developmental disabilities)

Fire Department:

Northside Fire House: 430 Senger Place
Southside Fire House: 1910 Raritan Road

Police Department:

430 Park Avenue

Scotch Plains Rescue Squad:

1916 Bartle Avenue

Public Library:

1927 Bartle Avenue

Parks & Recreation:

Brookside Park - 1255 Hetfield Ave.
Farley Avenue Park - 436 Farley Ave.
Green Forest Park - 554 Westfield Road
Haven Park - 331 Haven Ave.
Jerseyland Park - 2373 Richmond St.
Kramer Manor Park - 1950 Evelyn St.
Memorial Park - 2345 Plainfield Ave.
Ponderosa Park - 1600 Cooper Road
Watchung Reservation
(A section of the 3-mile reserve off Route 22)

OUR TOWN – AT A GLANCE

Source: U.S. Census

Land Area – 9.0 Square Miles

Population – approx. 24,968

Median Age – 43.8

Persons Per Square Mile – 2,606

Per Capita Income - \$60,896

Median Household Income - \$131,732

Households: 8,761

Median Housing Value - \$497,900

Median rent: \$1,584

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Scotch Plains depends on volunteers to serve on its many boards and commissioners. They include:

- **Americans with Disabilities Advisory Board:** Committed to ensuring that Scotch Plains residents fully benefit from the laws enacted by the ADA mandate.
- **Complete Streets:** Works to establish a walkable and bikeable community that is safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Construction Board of Appeals:** Hears appeals of decisions made by municipal agencies regarding violations of either the State Uniform Construction Code or the Uniform Fire Code.
- **Downtown Redevelopment Committee:** Serves as an advisory board to the Mayor and Council in regards to redevelopment plans and opportunities.
- **Environmental Commission:** Reviews and comments on development applications heard by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- **Green Team:** Assists Scotch Plains in becoming certified under the Sustainable Jersey program and maintaining such certification.
- **Historical Documentation and Preservation Committee:** Focuses on educating the public about the rich history of Scotch Plains, while ensuring the protection of historical items.
- **Library Board of Trustees:** Establishes the mission and vision for the library, as well as overseeing general management.
- **Mayor's Wellness Campaign Committee:** Coordinates programs designed to promote healthy activities and well-being in Scotch Plains.
- **Memorial Day Parade and Concert Committee:** Plans the annual remembrance programs for Scotch Plains military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces.



The Township Council extends its appreciation to all of the volunteers serving on Boards and Commissions in 2022.

- **Planning Board:** Reviews and approves site plans, subdivisions, and dimensional variances requested as a part of those applications.
- **Recreation Commission:** Creates many recreational opportunities, developing services and programs that promote citizen involvement and a strong sense of community.
- **Senior Citizen Advisory Committee:** Serves at the discretion and direction of the Township Council to render services to seniors and to seek ways to enhance their quality of life.
- **Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Committee:** Promotes a more inclusive Scotch Plains through educational programs, advocacy and events.
- **Zoning Board of Adjustment:** Hears and decides zoning code variances, appeals, decisions and interpretations of zoning codes.

Designed by Jaffe Communications. Photos by Sean Conklin and TAPinto Scotch Plains/Fanwood

